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IN THE APPLICATION

OF

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FOR A

GUIDE FOR TRIMMING FACIAL HAIR

## GUIDE FOR TRIMMING FACIAL HAIR

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional  
5 Patent Application Serial No. 60/419,536, filed October 21,  
2002.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 10 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to guides for cutting hair,  
and more specifically to a guide for shaving and trimming facial  
hair.

#### 15 2. DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

Achieving consistent, neat, and stylish results trimming  
facial hair and sideburns is a daily challenge for many  
individuals. To meet this challenge, numerous devices have been  
developed to assist amateurs and professionals alike in trimming  
20 and shaving hair on the head, neck, and face.

Among these devices are guides for trimming sideburns that  
protect a portion of the sideburn from the razor, as well as  
shields, which are hung from the ear, from straps worn on the  
head, or from the arms of spectacle frames to protect a measured

length of sideburn. However, these devices are not intended to guide the trimming of hair on the remainder of the face.

U.S. Patent No. 1,504,436 issued to Daughley in August 1924, presents a shaving gauge that hangs from the ear and is trimmed to overlap the portion of hair immediately in front of the ear.

U.S. Patent No. 4,010,764 issued to Wagner in March 1977, teaches a sideburn trimming guide that fits over the user's head on an inwardly biased arcuate band.

U.S. Patent No. 4,106,515 issued to Miller in August 1978, teaches a sideburn trimming guide with trimming templates that hang from a strap that encircles the crown of the user's head. Neither Daughley, nor Wagner, nor Miller teaches a guide for shaving and trimming hair on the lower face.

U.S. Patent No. 5,329,946 issued to Guma in July 1994, describes a handheld device fitted with a series of templates for trimming facial hair for trimming the beard, mustaches, and other hairlines. The user's razor is intended to follow the template along hairlines on the face and neck that protect hair not to be shaved. Unlike the present invention, it requires the use of one hand while shaving with the other. Furthermore, Guma does not teach a device for trimming facial hair that offers the user a clear view of area not to be cut as well as that being cut.

British Patent No. 725,158 issued March 2, 1955 to Monk et al. describes a headgear with protective plates that hang down and protect hair on the upper cheek from being shaved. Like Daughley, Wagner, and Miller, Monk et al. does not teach a solution to guide trimming and shaving the lower face.

None of the above inventions and patents, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to describe the instant invention as claimed.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention is a system of calibrated guide rods that are set by the user in adjustable positions to guide shaving and trimming facial hair in replicable patterns.

An oval, arcuate chin plate having an inner and outer surface, and a left and right side, is placed so that the inner surface rests on the chin. The user secures the malleable and substantially transparent plastic chin plate in place with an elastic strap that reaches around his neck and is secured with a buckle, hook and loop fastener, or other adjustable fastener on the side or back of his neck and away from his face.

A clamp is permanently fastened on the left and right sides of the outer surface of the chin plate, approximately at the ends of the plate. A slender, rigid, calibrated guide rod, approximately three to four inches long and 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter, is slidably adjustable in each clamp. The user can

rotate the guide rod and set the guide rod at any desired angle. In the preferred embodiment the guide rod is clear plastic material, but it can also be made of wood, metal, opaque plastic or other substantially rigid material.

5           The user rotates and adjusts the guide rods and clamps according to indicia disposed on the guide rods thereby guiding him as he shaves or trims a goatee, mustache, or other pattern around his mouth and chin.

10           A second embodiment of the present invention includes a second pair of guide rods to guide the user while he shaves and trims the upper and lower edges of a full beard or adjusts the length of his sideburns. A second pair of clamps slidably and rotatably attaches the second pair of guide rods to the first pair of guide rods. The second pair of guide rods is similar in  
15           dimension and markings to the first pair of guide rods.

          The tactile nature of the present invention and its disposition proximate to the face and beard contribute to its usefulness for individuals with limited sight.

20           Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide an easily used visual guide for shaving and trimming replicable patterns of facial hair about the mouth and chin, such as mustaches and goatees.

It is another object of the invention to provide an easily used visual guide for shaving and trimming replicable patterns of hair on the face and neck, including beards and sideburns.

5 A further object of the invention is to provide a guide for trimming facial hair that allows the user the ability to see the hair to be trimmed as well as the hair to be preserved.

10 It is a further object of the invention to provide an easily used tactile guide for trimming facial hair for persons with limited or no sight to guide them in shaving and trimming facial hair and sideburns in replicable patterns.

It is an object of the invention to provide improved elements and arrangements thereof in an apparatus for the purposes described which is inexpensive, dependable and fully effective in accomplishing its intended purposes.

15 These and other objects of the present invention will become readily apparent upon further review of the following specification and drawings.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

20 Fig. 1 is an environmental, perspective view of a guide for trimming facial hair according to the present invention shown on a user's chin with the guide rods positioned for shaving and trimming a moustache or goatee.

Fig. 2 is an environmental, perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a guide for trimming facial hair

according to the present invention shown on a user's chin, the guide having a first guide rod and a second guide rod for shaving and trimming the upper and lower portions of a beard, sideburns, and other predetermined patterns of hair on the face and neck.

Similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the attached drawings.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

The present invention, designated generally as **10** in the drawings, is a guide to facilitate shaving and trimming facial hair in replicable patterns. As shown in Figs. **1** and **2**, the shaving and trim guide **10** has a substantially oval chin plate **20** held against a user's chin by an elastic strap **22**. In its preferred embodiment the plate **20** is made of transparent plastic, but it can also be opaque and made of fabric, leather, or other known material that can form to the chin of a user. The chin plate **20** has a known thickness, a left and a right side, and an inner surface **34** and outer surface **32**. The chin plate **20** is flexible and the inner surface is adapted follow the contour of a user's chin. A rotatable clamp **12** is permanently affixed to the outer surface of the chin plate **20** proximate to the left and right ends of the plate **20**. The two ends of strap **22** are permanently attached to the left and right sides of chin plate **20**. Although in its preferred embodiment, the strap **22** is

made of elasticized plastic held tight by a buckle **24**, the strap **22** may be made of any commercially available material including fabric, or leather, and may be fastened with a hook and loop fastener, or other adjustable fastener.

5           Each fixed clamp **12** has a single aperture for slidably receiving a rigid, three to four inch guide rod **14** having a proximal **28** and distal end **26**, one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch in diameter. A thumbscrew **40**, or other known means, cooperatively engages the rod **14** and chin plate **20** thereby  
10           adjustably securing the distal end **26** of the rod **14** a variable distance from the chin plate **22**. The guide rods **14** have calibrated indicia **30** disposed thereon and may be made of transparent plastic, opaque plastic, wood, metal, or other substantially rigid material. The guide rods **14** and clamps **12**  
15           can be rotated about the base of the fixed clamps **12** and can be set at any selected angle. The clamp **12** is adjusted to hold a guide rod **14** so that it extends rearward from the chin plate **20** in a direction substantially parallel to the jaw line. The user rotates and slides each calibrated guide rod **14** through a series  
20           of predetermined positions while shaving or trimming a specific pattern of facial hair, such as a goatee, mustache, or other pattern, around the mouth or chin.

Referring now to Fig. **2**, a second embodiment of the present invention includes a second, or upper pair of guide rods **18**



rotatably and slidably mounted to the first pair of guide rods  
14, to guide shaving and trimming sideburns or the upper and  
lower edges of a full beard. The upper rods 18 are rotatably  
coupled to the previously disclosed first, or lower, pair of  
5 guide rods 14, by means of a pair of adjustable clamps 16, which  
are slidably attached to both pairs of guide rods 14, 18. The  
clamps 16 have two portions, each portion having an aperture for  
slidably receiving a guide arm, the first portion rotatably  
coupled to the second portion. The lower guide rod 14 and upper  
10 guide rod 18 can be rotated in parallel planes about the axis of  
the slidable clamp 16. The upper pair of rods 18 has  
substantially similar dimensions and calibrated indicia 30 as  
the lower pair of rods 14.

The tactile nature of the present invention 10 and its  
15 disposition proximate to the face and beard contribute to its  
usefulness for individuals with limited sight.

It is to be understood that the present invention is not  
limited to the embodiments described above, but encompasses any  
and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims.